

Application No.: 10/531,353
Docket No.: FA1131USPCT

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REMARKS

Each rejection and objection is addressed under original subject and numeric heading set forth in the Office Action.

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Claim Objections**2. Claim 22 is objected to because of informality.**

Claim 22 is amended to correct the informality.

Claim rejections – 35 USC § 103**8. Claims 2-8, and 10-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swarup et al (US 5506325) in view of Barsotti (US 4411951).**

As stated by the Examiner, "Swarup et al fail to teach that the acrylic polymers have molecular weight of 15,000-100,000 (claims 7 and 23-24), polydispersity of 1.05 -10.0 (Claim 7) and Tg from -5°C to +100°C and are made of" (Current Office Action, Page 5, 3rd paragraph).

As to the coating composition in Barsotti (US 4411951), it requires an alkylated melamine formaldehyde crosslinking resin (Barsotti, Abstract; Col. 3, line 15; Example 1 and Example 2; and claims 1 and 2).

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the molecular weight and polydispersity limitations, and also the crosslinking agent limitation. Support for the molecular weight and polydispersity are on page 4, line 28 – 31 of the Specification as originally filed. Support for polyisocyanate crosslinking agent is on page 7, line 1 – line 26.

As currently amended, claim 22 is patentably distinct from Swarup et al. or Barsotti individually, or in combination. Based on the disclosure in either of these references, one of ordinary skill in the art would not arrive at the currently claimed invention. Allowance of the amended claim 22 is requested.

As to claims 2 to 6, they are now dependent upon the amended claim 22. Allowance of these claims is also requested.

As to claim 7, the rejection is rendered moot as it was canceled.

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As to claims 10-11, they are now dependent upon the amended claim 22. Allowance of these claims are requested.

As to claims 13-14, claim 13 is amended to be dependent upon claim 22 and claim 14 is canceled. Allowance of claim 13 is requested.

As to claims 15-16, they are now dependent upon the amended claim 22. Allowance of these claims are requested.

As to claims 17-21, they are now dependent upon the amended claim 22. Allowance of these claims are requested.

9. Claims 2-8, and 10-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barsotti in view of. Swarup et al

See the reasons stated above. The coating composition in amended claims is patentably distinct from the ones disclosed in Barsotti's and Swarup's, either individually or in combination of the two.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments and the distinguishing observations concerning the references overcome the rejections maintained in the non-final Office Action.

Applicants believe that the fee established in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(2) for extending the time to reply to the Office Action as provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(2), namely the fee to extend the time to file within the second month after the end of the shortened statutory period, is due with submission of this paper. Please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company). Should an additional fee, not accounted for herein, also be due, please charge such fee to the same Deposit Account.


Should the Examiner wish to discuss any issues involved in this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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